

REMARKS

Claims 18-34 are pending in the application. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, and 30-34 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6,885,658 B1 (Ress et al.). Claim 26 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ress in view of US patent 7,031,279 B2 (Lee et al.). Claim 29 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ress in view of US patent US patent 6,363,065 B1 (Thornton et al.). Claims 20, 21, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 23, 33, and 34 are canceled herein. Claim 18 is amended. Claims 35 and 36 are new, and are the respective combination of claims 20 and 21 with their base claim 18, written in independent form as required for allowance. Thus, claims 18-22, 24-32, 35, and 36 are presented for examination.

Response to rejection under 35 USC 101

Claim 34 has been canceled herein, thereby rendering moot this rejection.

Response to rejections under 35 USC 102(e) and 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 23 has been combined its base claim 18 by adding the limitations of claim 23 to claim 18, and canceling claim 23. Thus, the amended claim 18 meets the requirement for allowability of claim 23 as stated on page 9 of the Office Action. The remaining dependent claims 19-22 and 24-33 should now be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim 18. New claims 35 and 36 are the respective combination of claims 20 and 21 with their previous (non-amended) base claim 18, written in independent form as required for allowance. Thus, all of the claims now meet the requirements for allowability stated on page 9 of the Office Action.

Conclusion

The 35 USC 101 issue has been removed. The claims have been amended as required for allowance per page 9 of the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the patent application as amended herein.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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